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The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

24 July 1981

The Honorable Edward P. Boland, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The purpose of this letter is to call your attention to two items at issue in the upcoming authorization conference which, although of very modest dollar value, are most significant in terms of managing the Intelligence Community.

The House Select Committee has proposed a reduction in the authorized manning level of the Intelligence Community Staff from [redacted] It has been argued that such a cut can easily be absorbed since there is general agreement that the Staff should be reduced and since its actual strength is well below its authorized level at present. As you know I am strongly committed to modifying the role played by this Staff. I believe--and the DCI shares my views--that increased coordination is necessary among Community elements. I also believe that there are functions being performed elsewhere that need to be added to the Staff. It is important that we retain flexibility to realign and reorient the Staff. We must be able to move both functions and people onto the Staff where that is clearly indicated. Lowering the authorized manning level will severely limit our flexibility. As the DCI stated in his appeal, billets freed within CIA by the transfer of functions to the Staff will be reallocated to intelligence collection and analysis activities. Accordingly, I urge that the Intelligence Community Staff continue to be authorized [redacted] spaces for FY 1982.

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I recognize that the two items discussed above seem small; I was afraid that in the press of other business they might have been overlooked. I was sure you would want to be aware of the importance I attach to them.

Sincerely,

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B. R. INMAN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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Letter to Boland

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